

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation

Application ID: 13AC146213

Program Name: Eastern Brooklyn Collaborative for Youth Development

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The applicant presented a comprehensive compelling description that clearly described the economic need of the target area (Cypress Hills). This area has a median income of \$37,096 which is only 60% of New York City's median income of \$61,827 and 43% of the target children under the age of 18 live in poverty. In addition, 30% of the total target population lives in poverty, which further substantiates the area being economically disadvantaged.

(+) The applicant provided a comprehensive description of the target community by presenting that 43% of the children in the target area live below the poverty line and 41% of the population are immigrants. The data was derived from the U.S. Census, educational attainment data from the New York City Department of Education 2011-12 Progress Reports and the supermarket need index data.

(+) The applicant provided compelling documentation of the needs to be addressed and the severity of the needs as evidenced by 43% of the students live in poverty, 27% of the adults do not have a high school diploma, the graduation rate of the high school is 50% and only 26% of the students passed the reading proficiency test.

(+) The applicant presented a thorough explanation for the selection of the population to be served by presenting data about schools scoring only 7.05 out of 15 on school environment data, only 26% of the target community students met state standards in English, and 53% of the residents are getting no physical activity.

(+) The applicant provided a clear link between the AmeriCorps member activities and the anticipated community outcomes which are 75% of students will improve academic engagement, 70% will improve performance in reading or math and 80% will increase their participation in healthy living activities.

(+) The applicant clearly identifies the community problems that will be serviced as literacy, healthy living, and increased volunteerism in the targeted community. The applicant provides cited documentation from the New York City Department of Education 2011-12 Progress Report of the importance to the community to increase these areas.

(+) The applicant provided a strong evidence-base for the interventions including: Harvard University research on

positive social behaviors, The Buck Institute on project-based learning, Food Project research, and the White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity Report to the President.

(+) The applicant clearly described the expected impact of the AmeriCorps investment as being 75% of students will improve academic engagement, 70% will improve performance in reading or math, and 80% will increase their participation in healthy living activities.

(+) The applicant, with the assistance of an outside evaluator and board members, is effectively using appropriate measurements (attendance logs, pre- and post-surveys and report cards) to ascertain the effectiveness of the interventions that are being proposed.

(+) The applicant sufficiently described how they determined their performance objectives by explicitly stating that they were building upon past program performance and previous evaluation results.

(-) The applicant lacks a description of what the organization will accomplish that it would not otherwise accomplish through existing staff. The applicant does provide details of what each AmeriCorps member will be assigned to do at each partnering site, or program need, however, a clear statement on the need for AmeriCorps members was not found in the narrative.